

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA: ALATHERTON

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY (SECTO O3023, S/S 7603243)

P - MR. SISCO

SSM - MR. KONTOS

NSC - MR. OAKLEY

S/S- MR. SHANKLE (PHONE)

S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE

----- 100767

O 150414Z FEB 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 037596

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: PUBLICITY ABOUT SINAI FIELD MISSION

REF: CAIRO 1196, TEL AVIV 1069

1. YOU WILL BY NOW HAVE SEEN INSTRUCTIONS TO THORNE ABOUT CEREMONY AT ACTIVATION OF SINAI FIELD MISSION, WHICH APPARENTLY CROSSED YOUR REFTEL AND WHICH STRESSED THAT WE WANT CEREMONY ON FEBRUARY 22 TO BE VERY LOW-KEY. WE ASSUME THOSE INSTRUCTIONS WILL MEET FAHMY'S CONCERNS. PLEASE TELL FAHMY I UNDERSTAND HIS CONCERNS AND AGREE FULLY THAT ACTIVATION AND ONGOING OPERATION OF MISSION SHOULD BE LOW-KEY AND NOT TURNED INTO A "CIRCUS". GIVEN WIDESPREAD LEGITIMATE CONGRESSIONAL, PUBLIC AND MEDIA INTEREST HERE IN THIS U.S. ACTIVITY, WE CANNOT OURSELVES TAKE OPPOSITION AGAINST MEDIA COVERAGE, BUT WE WILL ABIDE

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BY WHATEVER DECISION IS TAKEN BY UNEF.

2. FYI: WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PRESS COVERAGE, AS
OF FEBRUARY 22, DECISION ON AND CONTROL OVER WHO MAY
ENTER BUFFER ZONE IS UP TO UNEF UNDER TERMS OF SINAI II
AGREEMENT. WE ASSUME UNEF WOULD SEEK VIEWS OF EGYPTIANS
AND ISRAELIS IN SUCH CASES AS ADMISSION OF PRESS AND,
IF EGYPTIANS OBJECT, NOT REPEAT NOT AGREE. IN ANY EVENT,
WHILE WE CAN EXPECT PRESSURE ON US FROM PRESS REPRESENTA-
TIVES IF UNEF DOES NOT GIVE THEM PERMISSION TO COVER CERE-
MONY, THIS IS CLEARLY A DECISION WHICH IS NOT REPEAT NOT
UP TO US AND WE SHOULD RESIST BEING PUT IN THE MIDDLE
OF THIS ONE. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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